Borough of Pembroke

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1957

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To:- His Worship the Mayor and Corporation of the Borough of Pembroke.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting herewith my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1957.

OFFICERS

Senior Public Health Inspector - C. R. Sandell, Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods.

Additional Senior Public Health Inspector - J. Hogg. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods.

Clerk/ Shorthand-Typist - Miss. S.A. Griffiths. General Certificate of Education in seven subjects.

Rodent Operative - Wm. D. G. McCarthy. Succeeded by Wm. Phillips.

POPULATION The population was estimated to be 12,910. This is a decrease of 850 compared with the figure for 1956, which was 13,760.

INHABITED HOUSES The number of inhabited houses in the Borough at the end of 1957 was estimated at 4,128.

RATEABLE VALUE The rateable value of the Borough of Pembroke at the 1st April, 1957 was £125,135. The sum represented by a penny rate was estimated to be £490.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply to the Borough is pumped from Milton Springs to a reservoir at Stephens Green. From there it gravitates to Golden Hill reservoir from which it is distributed throughout the Borough.

In order to ensure the purity of the supply the water is chlorinated and subsequently de-chlorinated.

Regular samples of water were taken during the year from the Council's supply, both for chemical and bacteriological examination.

Eight samples taken from the springs and from various distribution points showed that the water was of excellent organic purity. It was non-corrosive, but was somewhat hard and would be expected to lay down scale in boilers and hot water systems.

Samples of water were taken, after chlorination, from various distribution points in the Borough. The results of these were satisfactory.

Thus it will be seen that the water supply to the Borough is of satisfactory purity both chemically and bacteriologically.

The supply remains adequate for the needs of the Borough.

The following table shows approximately the number of private dwelling houses, and population drawing water from (a) Corporation supply piped direct to houses (b) Corporation supply by means of a standpipe and (c) private supplies.

	No. of houses	Population
Corporation supply direct to houses	4051	12682
Standpipes	37	97
Private Supplies	40	131
	4128	12910

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Excluding closet conversions, small drainage improvements were carried out by private persons at five premises and in each case the systems were inspected and tested by my department. The drainage systems at twelve new houses and flats were also inspected and tested.

The clearing of choked drains is also undertaken by this department and a small charge is made for this service. During 1957 a total of seventy-three drains were cleared.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

During the period under review little progress was made in reducing the number of bucket closets and privies and replacing them by waterclosets. Only two owners took advantage of the Council's offer to pay half of the cost of conversion and went ahead with the provision of a watercloset at their premises. The following table shows approximately the number of inhabited houses with closets of each type :-

Water Closets	Bucket Closets	Privies
3,950	99	79

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse collection is carried out by direct labour. A Shelvoke & Drewry 16/18 cu. yard. Fore and Aft Tipping refuse freighter and a team consisting of a driver-loader, two loaders and a part time loader are employed to carry out this work. Refuse is collected weekly with the exception of certain main roads which are collected twice weekly. The refuse is disposed of by means of tipping at Waterloo.

Salvage is also collected at the same time as the refuse by the same vehicle and staff. It consists mainly of waste paper and during the year under review I had no difficulty in disposing of this commodity.

SANITARY INSPECTION

The following is a tabular statement showing :-

(a) The number and nature of inspections made during the year.
(b) The number of statutory and other notices served.
(c) The result of the service of such notices.

General Sanitation

Water Supply	11
Drainage	250
Public Conveniences	122
Refuse Collection	101
Refuse Disposal	48
Accums & Deposits	29
Rodent Control	240
Mis. Sanitary Visits	158
Water Samples:	
Bacteriological	15
Chemical	8
Salvage	84
Moveable Dwellings	39
Factories & Workshops	8
Places of Entertainment	3
Mosquito Control	10

Under Public Health Act

Houses Visited	154
Revisits	1037

Under Housing Act

Houses Visited	439
Revisits	602

Filthy or Verminous Premises

Houses Visited	1
Revisits	1

Meat and Food Inspection

Abattoir	574
Butchers	14
Grocers	34
Ice-Cream Premises	10
Food Preparing Premises	5
Market Stalls	7
Restaurants	1
Greengrocers & Fruiters	3
Milk Samples	1
Railway Stations	1

Notices Served

Verbal	2
Informal	5
Statutory	149

Notices Complied with

Verbals	2
Informal	22
Statutory	153

SHOPS AND OFFICES

The volume of other work during the year rendered it impossible for regular inspections of shops and offices to be carried out under the Shops Act, 1950 and the Public Health Act, 1936 respectively.

CAMPING SITES

1) The number of sites in the Borough which were used for camping purposes during 1957 was, to the best of my knowledge, nine.

2) There were no camping sites in respect of which Licences had been issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

3) The estimated number of campers resident in the Borough during the period is ninety-seven.

In connection with the above figures I have to point out that the campers on the above sites were not campers in the ordinary sense of the word but were residents of a more or less permanent or semi-permanent nature. There are no licensed camping sites in the Borough and the campers at each site are licensed individually to erect or station and use moveable dwellings. Five sites are occupied by persons of the Gypsy class and are situated some considerable distance from the town. Action is at present being taken by the County Planning Authority to clear some of the sites occupied by Gypsies. During the year no licences were granted to erect or station and use a moveable dwelling but permission was refused in one case.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

In the Borough there are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public.

ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS AND FLEAS

I am pleased to report that during 1957 it has not been necessary to treat any premises for infestation by bed-bugs. Three premises, however, were treated for infestation by fleas but only one of these was a Council house. Up to the present, the standard of cleanliness of families re-housed by the Council has been so high that it has not been necessary to inspect their belongings before removal.

On the rare occasions when a case of infestation by bed-bugs is discovered the usual practice is for the Council to carry out the work on payment by the person responsible for the infestation. After disinfestation the occupier is advised to notify me immediately if he should see any signs of more bugs. If re-infestation should occur in a very short time the premises would be disinfested again, this time free of charge.

SCHOOLS

There are eight schools in the Borough. Seven are under the control of the Pembrokeshire County Local Education Authority and one is a private school. They all have a piped town water supply, and in each case the sanitary accommodation consists of individual water closet pans connected to the Public Sewer.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No atmospheric pollution readings are taken in the Borough by this department but from figures given in Parliament for the period from January 1949 to December 1953 the atmosphere in the Borough contains only one milligramme of smoke per 100 cubic metres. When one compares this with the figure of 53 milligrammes per 100 cu. metres for one area in Lancashire, one realises that our figure indicated an atmosphere of exceptional purity.

HOUSING

There are a lot of poor class cottages in the Borough and the general standard of housing remains low. The poor general condition of housing makes it an uneconomical proposition for the owners to put the properties into good repair and so operate the increases permitted under the Rent Act, 1957. Owners find, therefore, that it is increasingly difficult to do even essential repairs on such low rents and the condition of many houses continues to deteriorate. Several old and derelict houses have been demolished and the sites cleared. Some of these will later be redeveloped.

The Council, however, continued its housing programme and during the year another forty-eight permanent houses were completed. This brought the total number of Corporation houses at the 31st December to 630 made up as follows :-

PEMBROKE AREA		PEMBROKE DOCK AREA		TOTALS
Permanent				
Green Meadow	80	Ferry Road	44	
Shoulder of Mutton	162	Hawkestone Road	76	
South Terrace	44	Cross Park	50	
		Laws Street	24	
		Park Estate	48	
		Caeglas	1	
		59 High St.	1	
	286		244	530
Temporary				
Jograms	16			
		Britannia Estate	84	100
Totals	302		328	630

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :-

(a) (i)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).....	593
(ii)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	2,232
(b) (i)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-heading (a) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.....	119
(ii)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	631
(c)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as unfit for human habitation.....	118
(d)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive to those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.....	9

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers..... 24

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 and Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957 :-

(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requesting repairs.....	Nil.
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :-	
	(a) By Owners.....	Nil.
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners...	Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring the defects to be remedied.....	2
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :-	
	(a) By Owners.....	6
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners...	Nil.

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 and Sections 16 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1957 :-

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..... 5

(ii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders..... 14

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 and Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957 :-

(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit..... Nil.

(ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made..... 1

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936)- PART IV - OVERCROWDING
&HOUSING ACT, 1957)

(a)

(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year..... Not known.

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein..... Not known.

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein..... Not known.

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year..... 2

(c)

(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year..... 2

(ii) Number of persons (equivalent adults) concerned in such cases..... 19½

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding..... Nil.

The Council rehoused 121 families during the year. The total number of persons rehoused was approximately 384. The system of routine inspection of Council Houses by this Department continued and the general standard of cleanliness was found to be excellent. A note was taken of any defects and these were passed on to the Borough Surveyor for his attention.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

Ten Dairymen are trading in the Borough as shown below :-

Producer/Retailers T.T.	9
Distributors	1
	10

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is responsible for the inspection of farms and other premises where milk is produced.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The following table shows that 9,815 animals were slaughtered and that the carcase and organs of each animal were inspected for diseased condition, a total of 574 visits being made to the abattoir for this purpose.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed	1,436	33	1,816	4,553	1,977	9,815
" Inspected	1,436	33	1,816	4,553	1,977	9,815
All Diseases except Tuberculosis						
Whole Carcases condemned	4	4	4	10	3	25
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	742	25	31	407	345	1,550
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	52%	75.8%	1.93%	11.1%	17.6%	
Tuberculosis Only						
Whole Carcases condemned	1	0	0	0	0	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	24	0	0	0	55	79
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	1.74%	0	0	0	2.7%	

During the year an estimated total of 1,628,686lb. of meat and offal was dealt with at the Abattoir. Of this 15,649lb. equivalent to 0.96% was condemned.

FOOD SHOPS

74 visits were made to food shops during the year. A total of 2,330 lb food was condemned in addition to the meat and offal condemned at the Public Abattoir.

MARKET

The Pembroke Dock Market was held weekly and 7 visits were made during the year.

RESTAURANT KITCHENS AND OTHER FOOD PREPARING PREMISES

6 visits were paid to various food preparing premises and advice and suggestions in connection with food hygiene were offered where necessary.

ICE-CREAM

10 visits were paid to premises licensed for the manufacture, storage or sale of ice-cream. Here again advice as to the best methods of preparation, storage and sale was given where necessary. During the year 6 premises were registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream.

ADULTERATION, ETC.

The bulk of the Food and Drugs Act sampling is at present being carried out by the Weights and Measures Department of the Pembrokeshire County Council.

The following table shows that 25 samples of food were taken in the Borough during the year :-

Name of Sample.	No. Taken.
Milk	16
Cornflour	1
Custard Powder	1
Tea	1
Sugar	1
Blanc Mange Powder	1
Rice	1
Plain Flour	1
Tapioca	1
Ice-cream	1

All of these samples proved to be genuine and in a wholesome condition.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD

Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations of food are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service in Carmarthen and by Messrs. Herbert J. Evans & Partners, Public Analysts Bank Lane, Carmarthen.

SHELLFISH (MOLLUSCAN)

There are no shellfish beds or layings in the Borough.

G E N E R A L

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

During the year 4 premises were disinfected after cases of infectious disease.

COMPLAINTS

282 complaints were received during the year and the appropriate action was taken in each case.

RODENT CONTROL

Rodent control continued during the year under review and the Council's Rodent Operative surveyed 1,017 premises and carried out a total of 161 campaigns against rodents. This entailed a total of 2,723 visits to premises.

Continued use was made of the rodenticide Warfarin which was fist tried in the Borough during 1952. Warfarin has given excellent results and has now almost displaced the other poisons used for rodent control. Test baiting of the sewers in the Borough showed that there were slight infestations in some sections. Poison treatments were carried out and subsequent test baiting proved these treatments to be effective.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

There were 8 non power factories in the Borough and 61 mechanical power factories, making a total of 69. In addition there were 10 other premises to which the Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948 apply. Pressure of work prevented regular inspections of factories being carried out but 8 inspections were made.

In no case was any want of cleanliness, overcrowding, unreasonable temperature, inadequate ventilation, ineffective drainage of floors or insufficient, unsuitable, defective or not separate sanitary conveniences discovered.

To the best of my knowledge no outwork was carried on in the Borough.

CONCLUSION

I should like to apologise for the delay in producing this report. Members are, however, aware of the increasing amount of work in my department. I therefore trust that they will understand that the carrying out of urgent day-to-day tasks leaves little or no time to spare for the production of a document such as this.

I should like to take this opportunity Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen, of thanking you and your other Chief Officers, for the assistance and co-operation so readily given throughout the year. Finally I should like to place on record my appreciation of the loyal and conscientious service of the members of my staff.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

C. R. Sandell, F.A.P.H.I.,M.R.S.H.
Senior Public Health Inspector.

Sanitary Department,
Municipal Offices,
Pembroke Dock.
11th March, 1960.